

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4592

To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to encourage the employment of veterans in energy-related positions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2010

Mr. TEAGUE (for himself and Mr. PERRIELLO) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to encourage the employment of veterans in energy-related positions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be referred to as the “Energy Jobs for
5 Veterans Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE THE EMPLOY-**
7 **MENT OF VETERANS IN ENERGY-RELATED**
8 **POSITIONS.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—To en-
10 courage the employment of eligible veterans in energy-re-

lated positions, the Secretary of Labor, through the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, shall establish a pilot program to be known as the "Veterans Energy-Related Employment Program". Under the pilot program, the Secretary shall award competitive grants to each of 2 States for the establishment and administration of a State program to make payments to energy employers who employ eligible veterans, to be known as a "State Energy-Related Employment Program".

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—To be eligible for a grant under the pilot program, a State shall submit to the Secretary an application that—

(1) includes a proposal for a State program that satisfies the requirements in subsection (d); and

(2) demonstrates that the State has—

(A) a population of eligible veterans of an appropriate size to carry out the State program;

(B) a robust and diverse energy industry; and

(C) the ability to carry out the State program in paragraph (1).

(c) SELECTION.—Under the pilot program, grants shall be awarded to 2 States that, in the determination of the Secretary, have proposed and have the ability to

1 carry out a State program that, for the greatest number
2 of eligible veterans, will provide marketable energy job
3 skills and employment experience and ensure lasting and
4 sustainable employment in well-paying energy jobs. The
5 Secretary shall base such determination on the proposal
6 and criteria referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of sub-
7 section (b), respectively.

8 (d) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE PROGRAM.—Under
9 a State program:

10 (1) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—A State shall pay
11 to an energy employer, with respect to each eligible
12 veteran employed in an apprenticeship or provided
13 on-job training referred to in subsection (h)(2)(A) by
14 the energy employer in the State, an amount not to
15 exceed 50 percent of the product of—

16 (A) the hourly rate of wages paid to the el-
17 igible veteran by the energy employer; and

18 (B) the number of hours worked by the eli-
19 gible veteran.

20 (2) LIMITATIONS.—With respect to each eligible
21 veteran in paragraph (1):

22 (A) AGGREGATE LIMITATION.—The aggre-
23 gate amount paid to an energy employer shall
24 not exceed \$20,000.

1 (B) MONTHLY LIMITATION.—The amount
2 paid to an energy employer for any month shall
3 not exceed one-twelfth of the amount specified
4 in clause (i).

5 (C) PAYMENT PERIOD LIMITATION.—Pay-
6 ments to an energy employer shall not be made
7 for a period of more than 12 months.

8 (3) PAYMENT FREQUENCY.—Payments to an
9 energy employer shall be made on a quarterly basis.

10 (4) REPORTING.—An energy employer that re-
11 ceives payments shall be required to submit to the
12 State, for each quarter, a report—

13 (A) in which the energy employer and eligi-
14 ble veteran certify the wages paid by the energy
15 employer to the eligible veteran for such quarter
16 under the program; and

17 (B) containing such other information as
18 the Secretary may specify.

19 (5) OUTREACH.—A State shall conduct out-
20 reach to inform energy employers and veterans, in-
21 cluding veterans in rural areas, of their eligibility or
22 potential eligibility for participation in the State pro-
23 gram.

24 (e) GRANT.—Under the pilot program:

1 (1) AMOUNT.—Grants to a State shall be in
2 such amounts as the Secretary, based on the pro-
3 posal by the State in subsection (b)(1), determines
4 necessary for the State to—

5 (A) make payments under subsection
6 (d)(1) with respect to eligible veterans who first
7 begin work under the State program in fiscal
8 years 2011 through 2015; and

9 (B) pay the reasonable costs of admin-
10 istering the State program until the date on
11 which no eligible veteran under subparagraph
12 (A) is working under the State program.

13 (2) FREQUENCY.—Grants shall be made for
14 such periods as the Secretary determines appro-
15 priate.

16 (f) CONDITIONS.—Under the pilot program, each
17 grant to a State shall be subject to the following condi-
18 tions:

19 (1) PAYMENT.—The State shall pay to the Sec-
20 retary, on such date as shall be determined by the
21 Secretary, any amount received under the grant that
22 is not used for the purposes in subparagraphs (A)
23 or (B) of paragraph (1) of subsection (e).

24 (2) REPORTING.—The State shall submit to the
25 Secretary a report at such time and containing such

1 information as the Secretary shall require, including
2 information on the use of grant funds.

3 (g) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall include as part
4 of the annual report required by section 4107(c) of title
5 38, United States Code, a detailed description of activities
6 carried out under this section.

7 (h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

8 (1) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—The term “eligible
9 veteran” means an individual entitled to educational
10 assistance under subsection (a) of section 3311 of
11 title 38, United States Code.

12 (2) ENERGY EMPLOYER.—The term “energy
13 employer” means an employer who—

14 (A) employs an eligible veteran in a pro-
15 gram of apprenticeship or provides to an eligi-
16 ble veteran other on-job training approved as
17 provided in paragraph (1) or (2), as appro-
18 priate, of subsection (a) of section 3687 of title
19 38, United States Code; and

20 (B) employs such eligible veteran in a
21 trade or business in—

22 (i) the energy-efficient building, con-
23 struction, and retrofits industries;

1 (ii) the renewable electric power in-
 2 dustry, including the wind and solar en-
 3 ergy industries;

4 (iii) the biofuels industry;

5 (iv) the energy efficiency assessment
 6 industry that serves the residential, com-
 7 mercial, or industrial sectors;

8 (v) the oil and natural gas industry;

9 or

10 (vi) the nuclear industry.

11 (3) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “pilot pro-
 12 gram” means the Veterans Energy-Related Employ-
 13 ment Program established under subsection (a).

14 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 15 the Secretary of Labor.

16 (5) STATE PROGRAM.—The term “State pro-
 17 gram” means a State Energy-Related Employment
 18 Program referred to in subsection (a).

19 (i) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be ap-
 20 propriated to the Secretary \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal
 21 years 2011 through 2015, for the purpose of carrying out
 22 the pilot program.

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